

REMARKS

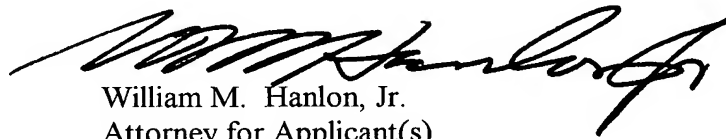
In the Office Action dated January 12, 2004, claims 1-9, 14-18 and 23, 25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a). Claims 19, 20, 26, 27, and 31 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 10-13, 21, 22, and 28-30 are objected to, but indicated as being allowable if amended to independent form. Accordingly, by this amendment, the claims have been amended to place the allowable claims in independent form thereby placing all of the claims which depend therefrom, likewise in allowable form. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

In the claims, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 12. Allowable claim 10 has been amended to include the features of original claim 1 and intermediate claims 8 and 9. Claim 16 had been amended to include the features of allowable claim 30. Claim 21 has been amended to include the features of original claim 16, and intermediate claims 17-20. Claim 23 has been amended to include all of the features of claims 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

After entry of this amendment, all of the independent claims include the features of the claims which the Examiner objected to, but indicated as being allowable. Thus, it is submitted that all of the pending claims 1-11, 13-16, 18-29, and 31 are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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